

Romans 8:28 *“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.”*

As many of you know, I grew up in the 1990's and that was a unique time for music. Many bands came out of the Seattle area, so to be a teenager in Western Washington meant some emotional ownership of the music made in that time.

In 1993 a band called the Smashing Pumpkins released an Album called Siamese Dream (A very 90's album name) and on it was a track called “Disarm.” The intro to the song had hand chimes and I loved the way it sounded with the guitar. I couldn't wait to let my mom listen to it as she is a huge music fan. I got out my new CD, popped it into the CD player in our family van and turned to the track. About 45 seconds into the song my mom reached over and turned it off. One of the lines of the first verse said the word “Sodomy” in it. She scolded me for having music that discussed issues like this that were inappropriate. While she was right in that sense, it was the context it was used in the song I didn't realize until years later. The singer wrote this song to express the tragedy that happened to him as a 5-year-old boy where he was abused severely. He wrote the song to help others who had been abused find healing and hope from their trauma. A very noble reason to write the song.

I realized from this that there is something innate in humans that want to take their trauma and pain and turn it into something good for someone else. You and I understand that both the desire to take our bad experiences and turn them into something good and the healing itself all come from God. The only true healing and restoration from the terror of sin can come through the Holy Spirit. I believe there is a massive mission field in the area of trauma and emotional healing, but it must be built on the foundation of God's word for that healing to take place.

Let's consider what has happened in our life that the devil plotted for bad that God can use for good when we surrender it to him. Then let's go out and reach others with our story!

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric Lundberg

Side Note: *The question is always asked should Christians listen to secular music? I think it's the wrong question. I think the question should be: Is the music appropriate? We know God designed music and He engineered the ability to make music into human creativity. Whether or not the musician recognizes the God in their music, God is behind it. So, like*

anything, we just ask ourselves if the content is appropriate and what is it communicating to our soul and mind and stand by our convictions and boundaries.